

GEORGE K. KNOWLTON.

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MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. FOSTER, of Washington, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8789.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8789) granting an increase of pension to George K. Knowlton, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

George K. Knowlton, now 74 years of age, was appointed an acting master's mate in the Navy on October 16, 1862, and served as such on the *Cambridge, Ohio*, and *Sacramento* until January 26, 1864, when honorably discharged.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of a double inguinal hernia and disease of the nervous system.

He filed a claim under the general law in March, 1899, on account of a double rupture.

This claim was admitted by the Pension Bureau so far as rupture of the right side was concerned, at \$10 per month, but no certificate was issued, for the reason that the beneficiary was then on the rolls under the act of June 27, 1890, at a higher rating.

The claim on account of hernia of the left side was rejected on the ground of no record or medical evidence of the same in the service or at discharge and claimant's declared inability to connect the hernia of that side with his naval service.

When last examined, on November 30, 1898, the board of surgeons rated him \$14 for the double rupture, \$17 for locomotor ataxia, \$12 for loss of sight of left eye from cataract, and \$10 for impaired vision of right eye due to an incipient cataract.

The pensioner stated to the board of surgeons that he had been partially paralyzed in both legs since about 1886, and that soon after his service he lost the sight of his left eye from an accident.

The records of the Navy Department do not show that the officer incurred a double hernia, but do show that while acting in the line of duty on April 22, 1863, he incurred a hernia of the right side.

The beneficiary declared his inability to furnish proof as to the incurrence of the rupture of the left side by reason of the whereabouts of those who had knowledge of the facts being unknown to him.

The statement of the pastor of the First Congregational Church, of Oakland, Cal., filed with your committee, sets forth that the beneficiary is in a pitiable condition;

that he suffers from a double rupture and from locomotor ataxia until it is almost impossible for him to struggle to and from his bed to a chair; that he is, of course, entirely helpless, and unable to do anything toward his support; that he is 72 years old and has not many years to live; that his daughter is nearsighted and unfitted for many kinds of work on account of her eyes; that she, however, teaches the piano, and does all she can for the support of her parents.

An increase of the pension of this beneficiary from \$12 to \$30 per month is just and proper, in the light of numerous precedents, it being shown that he is entirely helpless and in destitute circumstances.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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